

**Board of Commissioners Agenda Meeting
Courthouse Commission Chambers
June 28, 2022 – 6:00 p.m.
Minutes**

Members Present:

Chairman John Daniell
Commissioner Mark Thomas
Commissioner Chuck Horton
Commissioner Amrey Harden
Commissioner Mark Saxon

Staff Present:

Daniel Haygood, County Attorney
Justin Kirouac, County Administrator
Holly Stephenson, County Clerk
Melissa Braswell, Finance Director
Donna Norton, Budget Officer
Alex Newell, Internal Services Director
C.J. Worden, EMA Director
Jody Woodall, Public Works Director
Adam Layfield, Water Resources Engineer

Call to Order:

Chairman John Daniell called the meeting to order and stated that participants using Zoom may comment by using the raised-hand feature.

Pledge of Allegiance:

County Clerk Holly Stephenson led the Pledge after a moment of silence.

Approval of Agenda:

ACTION:

Motion:	Chuck Horton made a motion to approve the June 28, 2022 Agenda.
Second:	Mark Thomas
Voted in Favor of Motion:	Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon
Voted Against Motion:	None
Final Action:	Motion Passed.

Statements and Remarks from Citizens:

None.

Statements and Remarks from Commissioners:

Chairman Daniell reminded citizens of the Oconee County Comprehensive Plan Update community survey available on the website.

Chairman Daniell also reminded citizens of the Water Resources Conservation Watering Schedule that is in effect:

For odd-number addresses, outdoor watering is allowed on Tuesdays, Thursdays or Sundays.
For even-number addresses, outdoor watering is allowed on Mondays, Wednesdays or Saturdays.
Drip irrigation or hand watering is allowed at any time on any day.
Sprinkle systems should not water pavement.

Discussion of Awarding Bid for Fire Hydrant Flow Testing and Inspection Program:

Presented by: Adam Layfield, Water Resources Engineer

Discussion: Oconee County Water Resources has been very pleased with the contract for hydrant upkeep, so RFQP 22-04-14 for a one-year contract with four annual renewal options for fire hydrant painting and maintenance was issued. There were four bids received. The recommendation is to award the contract to Wachs Water Services who had the best combination of qualifications and pricing.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the July 12, 2022 Regular Meeting.

*The Public Comment Period was opened and there was no Public Comment.
Chairman Daniell asked if there were "raised hands" via Zoom and there were none.*

Approval of the FY23 Family Connection Contract:

Presented by: Melissa Braswell, Finance Director

Discussion: Finance Director Melissa Braswell requests approval of the FY23 Family Connection Contract to continue support for families and children of Oconee County through the Oconee Area Resource Council (OARC) for the period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. The FY23 amount has increased from \$48,000 to \$52,500. The request is for execution prior to July 1, 2022 with the necessary budget amendments to fully fund the contract for FY23.

ACTION:

Motion to Confirm: Mark Saxon made a motion to approve the FY23 Family Connection Contract with the Chairman signature and the necessary budget amendments to fully fund the contract for FY23.

Second: Chuck Horton

Voted in Favor of Motion: Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon

Voted Against Motion: None

Action/Motion: **Motion Passed.**

FY23 ACCG-IRMA Property and Liability Insurance Renewal:

Presented by: Holly Stephenson, County Clerk

Discussion: County Clerk Holly Stephenson requests approval of the FY23 Property and Liability Insurance proposal with ACCG-IRMA (Association County Commissioners of Georgia – Interlocal Risk Management Agency) in the amount of \$271,709 after a \$16,435 safety credit, a \$7,051 rate credit, and a \$33,503 dividend credit applied from FY22. Commissioner Harden questioned an increase in premium which is primarily based on inflation but offset by ACCG credits for safety and low claim history.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the July 12, 2022 Regular Meeting.

*The Public Comment Period was opened and there was no Public Comment.
Chairman Daniell asked if there were "raised hands" via Zoom and there were none.*

Discussion of the Acceptance of the Sanitary Sewer Easements, Assignment of Easements, and Right-of-Way deeds to Oconee County:

Presented by: Daniel Haygood, County Attorney

Discussion: County Attorney Daniel Haygood presented two Sanitary Sewer Easements for acceptance by the Board.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the July 12, 2022 Regular Meeting.

*The Public Comment Period was opened and there was no Public Comment.
Chairman Daniell asked if there were "raised hands" via Zoom and there were none.*

Approval of the Fixed Generator Grant Change Order:

Presented by: C.J. Worden, EMA Director

Discussion: EMA Director C.J. Worden requests approval for the revised total cost of the generator project of \$209,413.40 with necessary budget amendments up to the new total cost of the project. The additional cost results from several extensions due to supply change issues and a required higher voltage transfer switch.

*The Public Comment Period was opened and there was no Public Comment.
Chairman Daniell asked if there were "raised hands" via Zoom and there were none.*

ACTION:

Motion to Confirm: Chuck Horton made a motion to approve the Fixed Generator Grant Change Order with the necessary budget amendments up to the new total cost.

Second: Mark Thomas

Voted in Favor of Motion: Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon

Voted Against Motion: None

Action/Motion: **Motion Passed.**

Discussion of Local Option Sales Tax Distribution:

Presented by: Chairman John Daniell

Discussion: Chairman Daniell explained that every ten years the LOST distribution must be re-negotiated with the qualified cities. Historically, the county splits funds with Watkinsville and Bogart based on populations. Both Watkinsville and Bogart have agreed to revised distributions with Bogart receiving 3.17%, Watkinsville receiving 7.77%, and Oconee County receiving 89.06%. The change in distribution of funds will take effect January 1, 2023.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the July 12, 2022 Regular Meeting.

*The Public Comment Period was opened and there was no Public Comment.
Chairman Daniell asked if there were "raised hands" via Zoom and there were none.*

Update on Cole Springs Road Closure:

Presented by: John Daniell, Chairman

Discussion: The county had a conference call last week with the district GDOT office. The consensus for the best improvement would be a roundabout at the intersection, but there is no current funding plan. With the help of Representative Weidower, the county learned that GDOT would be willing to contribute some of their highway safety improvement money to the project. The funding is federal money which comes through the state. Chairman Daniell suggest hiring a consultant for design and pricing to see how quickly the project can begin.

Commissioner Harden questioned how quickly we could hire a consultant and whether an interim step could open the intersection quicker. The answer depends on state or federal funding options. A study is required for either realignment or a roundabout.

Commissioner Horton suggested looking into funding possibilities for the county portion.

Commissioner Saxon confirmed a two-year timeline for complete roundabout construction. He suggested reopening the intersection prior to this in some way. GDOT recommends a roundabout over realignment due to new conflict points if realigned. There is reservation about reopening the intersection with no improvements.

County Administrator Justin Kirouac stated an ICE Study may be required before any opening. Commissioner Horton confirmed a reopening would not prevent future improvements.

Commissioner Harden questioned an interim step to speed up the reopening of the intersection that would include alignment of the intersection.

Chairman Daniell replied that studies and consulting still would be required. Also, there is a concern that doing these studies, designing, and obtaining right of ways should be a single process for lowest cost purposes.

The Commission continued to discuss options focused on reopening the intersection before the two years that roundabout construction would take and whether doing realignment would delay a roundabout.

Commissioner Harden questioned what new information would be available by the July 12 meeting.

Chairman Daniell responded that it would be known whether the funding would be through the state or have federal ties which affects timeline. Also, some pricing on possible designs could be available.

Commissioner Horton brought up the liability concern of reopening the intersection with no safety improvements should an injury occurs there.

Commissioner Harden would like to fix the angle of the intersection for reopening as soon as possible.

The meeting was stopped to address disruptions from Coleman Hood.

The Public Comment Period was opened.

Coleman Hood, 1351 Overlook Ridge Road, requests the road be reopened immediately.

Chairman Daniell asked if there were "raised hands" via Zoom.

There was a raised hand on Zoom, but no one was there when called on.

The Public Comment Period was closed.

Commissioner Thomas questioned whether liability insurance would be used in the case of a bad accident. County Attorney Daniel Haygood responded there would likely be an argument for the county being partially responsible if the road is opened by the Commission with no safety improvements.

Commissioner Harden again asked to fix the angle and reopen the road as soon as possible.

Commissioner Saxon questioned more signage, making Cole Springs traffic yield to all others, and whether those options would be lawful. He also supports realignment for a quicker reopening.

Chairman Daniell stated the first step is hiring a design consultant to work on road realignment.

Commissioner Thomas would like to buy rights-of-way up front to include a future roundabout.

Chairman Daniell requests an answer to the clarification of a funding mechanism, selection of a design consultant, and clarification on legal signage to the location for the July 12 meeting.

Discussion of the Multi-intersection Design Project:

Presented by: Jody Woodall, Public Works Director

Discussion: Public Works has solicited pricing for design of improvements at intersections around the county based on citizen request. The six intersections are: SR 53/Hog Mountain Road at Hebron Church Road/Sikes Road; Lane Creek Road at Moores Ford Road; Lane Creek Road at Snows Mill Road; Snows Mill Road at Cole Springs Road; Union Church Road at New High Shoals Road; and Astondale Road at Colham Ferry Road. Prices have been received from Atlas Technical Consultants, TranSystems and ClearCourse. The recommendation from Public Works is accept the lowest bid from ClearCourse with a contract not to exceed \$350,000 and authorize the Chairman to execute documents with the necessary budget amendments up to the contract amount for the life of the project. They would review the six intersections and include designs for five of those intersections. Commissioner Harden questioned the type of design options that may be suggested. Commissioner Thomas asked that the Cole Springs intersection be added for review. County Administrator Justin Kirouac responded that it can be included if federal funds will not be used. Public Works will provide an update at the July 12 meeting.

Discussion of TSPLOST:

Presented by: John Daniell, Chairman

Discussion: The Chairman will meet with the city mayors on Thursday to discuss interest in participating in TSPLOST. If approved, TSPLOST will be discussed again at the July 26 BOC meeting, call for election on August 2, Board of Elections meeting on August 3 and an actual election date of November 8. The Town Hall Meeting on August 23 would focus mainly on TSPLOST. Should TSPLOST pass in the election, funding would be divided among four categories: related services for maintenance to result in a reduction in the mill rate of 1 mill for tax payers if passed; multi-use paths; safety and intersection improvements; and paving. Commissioner Harden questioned the start collection date. Collection would begin April 1, 2023 with a millage rollback for 2024. He also asked about community groups assisting with explaining and promoting TSPLOST due to citizens having misinformation.

Update on Administrative Building Roundabout ITB:

Presented by: Jody Woodall, Public Works Director

Discussion: A pre-bid meeting was held on June 27 with four prospective bidders with a deadline of July 7 for these bids. Public Works plans to present the bids to the Board at the July 12 meeting.

Executive Session:

Motion: Mark Saxon made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss land acquisition and personnel matters.

Second: Mark Thomas

Voted in Favor of Motion: Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon

Voted Against Motion: None

Action/Motion: **Motion Passed.**

Adjourn into Executive Session: 7:13 p.m.

No action was taken in Executive Session.

Executive Session Adjourned: 7:46 p.m.

Regular Session:

Motion: Mark Saxon made a motion to adjourn back into Regular Session.

Second: Mark Thomas

Voted in Favor of Motion: Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon

Voted Against Motion: None

Action/Motion: **Motion Passed.**

Adjourned into Regular Session: 7:47 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned:

Motion:	Mark Saxon made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
Second:	Mark Thomas
Voted in Favor of Motion:	Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon
Voted Against Motion:	None
Action/Motion:	Motion Passed.
Meeting Adjourned:	7:47 p.m.



John Daniell, Chairman

Date

 7-12-22

Holly Stephenson, County Clerk

Date